

Joint Declaration on Adriatic Sea's Resources

Italy and Croatia share interests and priorities within the EU and in international fora. The excellent level of their bilateral relations is expressed by the work of the Coordination Committee of Ministers established with the Memorandum on Cooperation between the Government of the Italian Republic and the Government of the Republic of Croatia signed in Zagreb on 12 January 2009.

In line with the Common Fisheries Policy of the European Union, Rome and Zagreb are engaged in a balanced and sustainable management of biological resources of the Adriatic Sea, while taking into account the two Countries' sustainable development goals.

They are specifically concerned with the fragility of their respective coastal regions, to which fish stocks and fishing practices and activities represent a source of revenue and employment for both Countries.

In order to address together common challenges, the Italian and Croatian delegations agree to hold consultations with a view, inter alia, to monitoring the impact that potential changes in the legal framework may have on the interests of the two Countries' populations.

In this spirit, the Italian and Croatian delegations agree also to strengthen their dialogue in order to express a common position on the EU's decisions on fisheries, where this is deemed possible.

The bilateral consultations inaugurated today will focus on our common interest to ensure environmental sustainability in the Adriatic Sea while preserving maritime jobs and income generating activities in both Countries.

The consultations will be held with a view to assess and evaluate the impact, inter alia, of a number of variables that might affect the current fishing practices and activities, including climate changes, environmental challenges, changes in the laws and regulations governing fishing activities in the respective Exclusive Economic Zones.

Any such consultation is without prejudice to the exercise of the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of each State and will be in accordance with national laws of Italy and Croatia as well as international law and EU acquis/law.

Done at Rome on 24 May 2022, in two originals in the English language.

**For the Government of
the Italian Republic**

Luigi Di Maio
Minister of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation



**For the Government of
the Republic of Croatia**

Gordan Grlić Radman
Minister of Foreign and
European Affairs

